

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 14, 2002 LB 447

responsibility and I think, in by and large, the majority take it very seriously. And I will say that, as most of you know, that if decisions that are made by county boards are not popular, there is an election coming up in a short time and changes can be made if that is the will of the people. So I don't...I won't support bringing this bill out because apparently a couple of times it's been killed in committee and probably for some of the reasons I've talked about among others. So even though I understand what Senator Beutler is doing, I'm...I'm not in the position at this point, from what I've...from the information that I've been able to gather and the calls that I've gotten do not lend me towards supporting this kind of a motion to, in fact, bring this bill up to be decided on the floor of the Legislature. With that, Mr...Senator Cudaback, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, I will be very brief. I tend to agree with comments made by Senator Bromm and Senator Vrtiska. I oppose bringing this from committee and I, in the sake of time, I'm not going to go too much further into that. But I do think that we need to continue to have local authority as a general rule. Whether this is the correct answer, I am not sure, but I think there...I could go on about the issue of medit...meditation, (laugh) mediation and arbitration, but the thing I do want to kind of set the record straight, this dam in Cass County, specifically, would have gone forward and would, in fact, have probably been built by now if it had stayed within the confines of flood control. Where the project got in trouble, when it was after the permission was granted and things were pretty well settled for flood control, then there...the issue came up, why not expand it for recreation. And that's where the project then ran into trouble. Two commissioners that did vote are in their districts, they are voted in by districts, apparently felt that they were representing the will of their districts at that point and, in fact, are still in office today. So it is an issue of local control to many...to a large degree, and if you recall just last week when we did the task force or started in motion the task force along Interstate 80, and that